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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960



ROSS-on-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960, in accordance with Article 15(4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/61 of the Ministry of Health.

The health of the population was good during 1960; the incidence of acute notifiable disease was remarkably low and the Urban District continued to be free from the more serious infections. There was a small increase in population, an increase in the number of births and fewer deaths than in 1959.

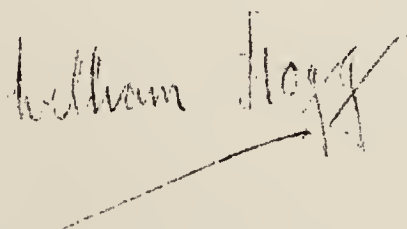
Little progress was made in the provision of dwellings by the Council, and such provision is still necessary. Also, no work was commenced on the third phase of the sewerage scheme.

The Report contains a meteorological report kindly supplied by Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-Charge, County Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, giving a record of the climatic conditions during the year.

In the preparation of this Report, I have to acknowledge assistance by Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council; Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Public Health Inspector; Mr. A.B. Aird, Surveyor to the Council; Mr. F. Watts, Housing Manager; and Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer to the Herefordshire Water Board for information respecting water supplies in the area.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Hogg', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Medical Officer of Health

21st June, 1961

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND
HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, A.M.Inst.B.E.

Qualified Public Health Inspector (Joint Board)

" Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute)


" Building Surveyor (Inst. Municipal Engineers)

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2373

Council Chambers,

Ross-on-Wye.



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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	1,004
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.60)	...	1,737
Rateable Value	...	£68,573
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£268.0.0d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	5,390
Area comparability factor (births)	...	1.03
Area comparability factor (deaths)	...	0.84

Vital Statistics for the Year

Number of live Births	...	108
Live birth rate per 1000 population (crude)	...	20.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	7.4

Stillbirths

Number of stillbirths	...	3
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	27.0
Total live and still births	...	111
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...	9.3
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	...	10.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	Nil
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live and still births)	...	27.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of maternal deaths	...	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	Nil

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small country town, known as a holiday centre for the lower Wye Valley. The town is recognised as an inland health resort suited for convalescence, especially during the winter months.

Catering for visitors forms an important source of employment. Industries located in the town include timber and joinery works, printing and some light engineering.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population is 5390. The Census population in 1921 was 4,701; in 1931 it was 4,735 and 5,394 in 1951.

On the estimated mid-year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.10. The average number of persons per acre is 5.36 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 1.73.

The natural increase of population for the year is 36.

Births

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 108 (53 males and 55 females). During the previous year 95 births were attributed to the district. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 20.0 and using the comparability factor of 1.03 for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 20.6 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 17.1 per 1000 population.

The number of live births which occurred out of wedlock was 8; this figure for 1959 was 3. Illegitimate births were 7.4% of the total live births.

The adjusted legitimate live birth rate was 19.1 per 1000 estimated population and the adjusted illegitimate live birth rate was 1.5 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths registered during the year was 3. All of these occurred in wedlock. The stillbirth rate for the year is 27.0 per 1000 total births. In the previous year there were 3 stillbirths.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 19.7 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 72; this figure being made up from 31 male deaths and 41 female deaths.

For the year 1959 there were 91 deaths in the Urban District. The total number of deaths is obtained after deducting the deaths of non-residents and adding the deaths of residents who died outside the boundary of the Urban District.

The crude death rate from all causes is 13.4 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 11.2 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate from all causes for the year for England and Wales is 11.5 per 1000 population.

The ratio of male/female deaths for the year is 0.76.

Various forms of heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20) the most frequent cause of death, gave rise to 22 deaths. The corrected mortality rate for the year for all forms of heart disease is 3.43 per 1000 estimated population.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system (heading No.17) was the second most frequent cause of death accounting for 14 deaths.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons	Corrected D.R. per 1000 est. population
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	1	1	0.16
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	0.31
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	1	5	0.78
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.16
16.	Diabetes.	1	-	1	0.16
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	11	14	2.18
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	6	2	8	1.25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	-	2	0.31
20.	Other heart disease.	2	10	12	1.87
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	3	3	0.47
23.	Pneumonia.	1	2	3	0.47
24.	Bronchitis.	3	-	3	0.47
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	1	2	0.31
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1	2	0.31
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.16
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.16
31.	Congenital malformation.	-	1	1	0.16
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	1	4	5	0.78
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1	0.16
34.	All other accidents.	1	3	4	0.62
All Causes		31	41	72	11.25

Cancer Deaths

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites was 8 (6 male and 2 female). The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer was 1.25 per 1000 estimated population. The cancer death rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 2.15 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Notifiable Infectious Disease

Pneumonia caused three deaths and was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as a cause of death during the year. The corrected pneumonia death rate for the Urban District is 0.47 per 1000 estimated population.

Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea

One death was attributed to these causes, giving a corrected local death rate of 0.16 per 1000 estimated population.

Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to any form of tuberculosis. The death rate for the year for England and Wales for all forms of tuberculosis is 0.075 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

One infant under one year of age died during 1960 - the same number as the previous year.

The infant mortality rate for the year for England and Wales is 21.7 per 1000 live births. The local infant mortality rate is 9.3 per 1000 live births.

Puerperal and other Maternal Deaths

I am pleased to record that no maternal deaths occurred within the Urban District. The death rate for England and Wales for 1960 from all maternal causes is 0.39 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Neonatal Mortality

The neonatal mortality rate for the District for the year is Nil, and the rate for England and Wales for 1960 is 15.6 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, provides facilities for clinical pathological investigations and bacteriological examination of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical examinations are carried out by the Public Analysts, Ellis and Turner of Gloucester; and biological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Worcester.

The following table shows the number of the various specimens examined by the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, on behalf of the Department:-

Sputum	...	1
Swabs	...	5
Faeces	...	19
Milk (methylene blue test)...		39
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	34
Water (bacteriological)	...	110

Four samples of water and four of sewage effluent were sent for chemical analysis.

In addition, 33 samples of raw milk were submitted to Worcester Public Health Laboratory for biological test.

Ambulance Service

One ambulance and a utilicon car with six employed drivers are provided at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters in Edde Cross Street, by the Herefordshire County Council. Members of the Ross-on-Wye St. John Ambulance Brigade assist with this Service.

Public Mortuary

The Council maintains a small public mortuary with facilities for post mortem examinations, at the Depot in Greytree Road.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 6, and 10 were received from outside the District.

Disposal of the Dead

Limited use was made of the Council's Cemetery in Walford Road, as only 1 interment took place during the year. The cemetery was opened in 1945.

Section 50 - National Assistance Act 1948

No burials were carried out by the Council under this section of the Act during 1960.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act 1948

No investigations were made under this section during the year.

Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences are situated at the Coach Park, at Cross House and at the Crofts. These were well maintained throughout the year under the management of the Council's Surveyor.

Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Ross Cottage Hospital has 15 beds. It has facilities for medical and surgical cases and has an X-ray Department, an operating theatre and an out-patients department.

The Alton Street Hospital provided accommodation for some chronic sick and also provides residential accommodation for mentally disordered patients.

Clinics

A minor ailments clinic for school children is held on Monday mornings during school term, at Chepstow House.

Infant Welfare clinics are held weekly on Thursday afternoons at Chepstow House.

Chepstow House also accommodates dental, ophthalmic, speech therapy and physiotherapy clinics each week, provided by the Herefordshire County Council. The County Council also provide a chiropody clinic for aged persons on the first Tuesday in each month at Chepstow House.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye lies on Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System.

Water

On the first day of April of the year under review, the water-works of the Ross Water Undertaking vested in the Herefordshire Water Board. This is a new Authority set up by the Herefordshire Water Board Order, 1959 to provide adequate public water supplies in Herefordshire.

The Ross Water Undertaking provided a piped supply of potable water in the Urban District for a great many years. It was provided and managed by members of the Blake family and was of great benefit to the inhabitants of the District.

The public water mains of the Herefordshire Water Board provide a supply of potable water throughout the Urban District. All dwelling houses are supplied by the mains, but 34 houses obtain their supplies from 7 standpipes. The water is obtained from boreholes at the Alton Court Works, but the higher parts of the Three Crosses Estate, Mount Pleasant and Overross receive some water from the mains in the Rural District. An old 2" pumping main originally used to supply Brampton Abbots, was utilised to boost the pressure in these areas which has materially assisted the supply, particularly during the summer. A 4" main has been laid from the rural mains at Brampton Abbots to the mains supplying these areas, but is not yet fully commissioned, as the final connection must wait until the road improvement work at Five Ways is complete. This road improvement work has affected the Board's underground plant in that area, but will soon be completed and then the Board will be in a position to supply the high parts of the Urban District and the Greytree area with an adequate supply of water under full pressure at all times. Also, improvements have been made to the supply in the Urban District by connecting the mains at Wilton to the Peterstow main, and at Bridstow many properties supplied from small diameter mains have been connected to the 3" main originally constructed by the Rural District Council.

During the year, no extensions to the public water mains have been carried out within the Urban District.

The public water supply is a chlorinated supply. There does not appear to be any fluorine present in this supply and the water has no appreciable solvent action upon metals. There are no public wells within the District.

The river water supply which was formerly available in parts of the town, was discontinued during the year, as flooding from the River Wye destroyed the machinery in the pumping station.

Frequent samples of water are taken by the Public Health Inspector. During 1960, the number of samples of potable water submitted for bacteriological examination was 110. Of these, 94 samples were of chlorinated water and the remainder untreated water. All, except one of these latter samples were sterile. The chlorinated water gave 87 sterile samples but 7 showed a small count. Four samples of water were sent for chemical examination during the year - all were satisfactory. Copies of all water reports are forwarded to the Engineer and Manager of the Herefordshire Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage

Public sewers extend throughout the Urban District and the number of premises not connected to these sewers is negligible. The system is of the combined type taking both storm and foul water.

During 1960, the only public sewer constructed was 20 yards of 9" sewer in Broad Street. This was found to be necessary during the reconstruction of the roadway. In addition, 1150 feet of 9 inch private sewer was constructed at Merrivale, part of this has been vested in the Council as a public sewer.

The sewage is given treatment at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, before being discharged into the River Wye. No new works for sewage disposal were constructed during the year, but the work of collecting information for the improvement of drainage in the eastern area was continued.

Four samples of sewage effluent from the Council's treatment plant were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. The first of these just failed to comply with the Royal Commission standards but the remainder were satisfactory.

Early in December, as a result of an exceptionally high rise in the level of the River Wye, there was flooding in the Brookend, Greytree, Wye Street and Lower Cleeve areas. Thirtyfour dwelling houses and some trade premises were affected. A caravan site, on which were 10 caravans, was also involved. In previous years the flood water has been contaminated with sewage, but as a result of the new sewage works, this was prevented. Continuous pumping limited the height of the flood water in Brookend.

All new drains are inspected and tested by the Public Health Inspector. The number of drain tests made was 33, and 33 new drains were constructed. Ten existing drains were reconstructed and repaired.

Rivers and Streams

The river Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District. Two small streams pass through the area - Checkly Brook and Rudhall Brook. Pollution of the Rudhall Brook by mineral oil continued to occur during the year. This is a matter which is the concern of the River Wye Board.

For the prevention of nuisance, the water courses were inspected on 13 occasions.

Closet Accommodation

Water closets are provided throughout the District. A small number of closets are not provided with flushing apparatus. The number of new water closets provided during the year was 28. No conversions were necessary.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse by means of a motor tipping refuse vehicle.

The collection is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. Disposal is by tipping at Deep Dean, Walford, in the adjoining Rural District.

In addition to domestic refuse the Council undertakes the collection of certain types of trade refuse on payment; collection from business premises being made twice weekly. In summer, collection from food premises is made three times each week.

The Council continued to provide, on hire purchase terms, approved sanitary dustbins, and supplied 30 dustbins during the year. This scheme reduces the use of unsuitable receptacles as dustbins.

The excessive rainfall in the later months of the year caused considerable difficulty at the tip, as the approach to the face became too soft for the vehicle.

The Council carries out regular cleansing of streets and public places. Street cleansing is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor. The need for cleansing of cesspools and privies does not arise.

There are no public baths or wash-houses in the town.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Small swimming pools for instruction purposes were opened at the Grammar School and the Secondary Modern School during the year. Their use is restricted to the pupils at the schools.

The number of samples of water taken from the pools and sent for bacteriological examination was 17 and 13 of these were found to be sterile.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the general public within the Urban District.

Shops and Offices

Informal action in connection with one shop secured compliance with the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Three premises were inspected under this Act. No action was necessary by this Department, as the premises complied with the requirements of the Act for sanitary accommodation, etc.

Factories Act, 1937

There were 48 factories with mechanical power and 7 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year. This is a reduction of 1 in the number of factories with mechanical power compared with the previous year.

In addition, there were 10 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the Act was 287.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	11	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	39	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	10	237	-	-
Total	65	287	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences(S7) (b) Insufficient or defective	1	1	-	1	-
Total	1	1	-	1	-

Out-workers

There is one out-worker registered with the Local Authority, engaged in making wearing apparel. Conditions were satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Public Health Inspector to the Council, for the following statement, furnished under Article 25(20) of the Public Officers, Regulations 1959.

Inspections

Accumulations.	=	2
Agriculture (S.H. & W. Prov.) Act.	=	3
Bakehouses	=	33
Camping Sites	=	16
Canteens	=	10
Caravans	=	110
Dairies	=	22
Factories (without mechanical power)	=	11
Factories (with mechanical power)	=	39
Food Handling Byelaws	=	8
Food Premises	=	44
Houses let in lodgings	=	2
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	=	30
Housing (Other)	=	179
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	=	12
Infectious Disease	=	4
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	=	3
Markets	=	72
Public Conveniences	=	38
Public Mortuaries	=	33
Petroleum Stores	=	30
Refuse Tips	=	142
Schools	=	13
Sewage Disposal Works	=	119
Sewers	=	146
Shops	=	3
Slaughterhouses	=	300
Unsound Food	=	77
Water Supply	=	24
Water Courses	=	73
Work Places	=	237

Notices Issued

Informal	=	76
Statutory re Housing	=	Nil
Statutory under other Acts	=	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Ashbins provided	=	30
Accumulations removed	=	1
Ditches cleared	=	2
Domestic baths provided	=	10
Drains and Gullies cleared	=	32
New drains provided	=	10
Defective floors repaired	=	1
Defective roofs repaired	=	2
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	3
Defective windows repaired	=	1
Defective chimneys repaired	=	4
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	4
Flooded premises cleared	=	9
New gullies provided	=	10
Inspection chambers repaired	=	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	3
New sinks provided	=	6
Stoves provided	=	25
Miscellaneous defects remedied	=	10

Camping Sites - Public Health Act 1936 Section 269
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Three sites within the Urban District were used for camping purposes during the year. No licences were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 as these sites are exempt from this Section. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at any time did not exceed 70 persons.

Owing to liability to floods and other factors, one caravan site is ceasing to be used.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in use in the town - the need for such accommodation no longer exists.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Before tenants move into a Council House, inspection is made by the Housing Manager and Public Health Inspector, and when infestation is found it is treated before the tenancy begins, usually with a liquid insecticide.

Hydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) 1951

No disinfestations with hydrogen cyanide were carried out within the Urban District during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs one rodent operator who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. This work averages about 24 hours per week.

	Premises inspected.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		Mice	No. of properties treated	Stat- utory Notices
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	6	1	-	1	-	1	-
Dwelling Houses	85	85	-	85	-	85	-
Agricultural Properties	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other (including business) premises	32	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	125	86	-	86	-	86	-

The total number of inspections made during the year was 459.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Twentytwo licences were granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit. One of these was in respect of a new installation and one installation was discontinued.

SECTION D - HOUSING

During 1960, no Council houses were completed but the erection for the Council of eight bungalows suitable for aged persons was commenced. The erection by the Standing Joint Committee of new dwellings for members of the Herefordshire Constabulary was commenced in Church Street.

The Urban District Council owns 341 permanent dwellings and four temporary dwellings - one fifth of the occupied dwellings in the District. With a total of 1737 occupied dwellings at the end of the year, the gross density of these is 1.73 per acre.

Private persons completed 34 dwellings and had 18 under construction at the end of the year.

The repair of 76 unfit dwellings was secured as a result of informal action, and in one instance formal action under the Housing Act 1957 Section 9 resulted in the repair of one unfit dwelling. There are still a number of unfit dwellings in use which require action by the Council without undue delay.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | = 106 |
| 2. Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | = 30 |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | = 76 |

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

Overcrowding of dwellings is not a big problem within the town, for only 9 dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the beginning of the year. One further case came to the notice of the Council during the year, but fortunately it was possible to secure abatement of 4 cases. In no instance did overcrowding again occur after action by the Council for abatement. The number of overcrowded dwellings at the end of the year was 6. The number of persons involved in the abatement of overcrowding was 24.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. Part II
Section 30

During the year, the Council made 4 grants under this section for the improvement of dwelling houses. These grants were discretionary grants and brought the total number of such made by the Council to 40.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. Part II Section 30
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

The number of loans made by the Council under this section to assist persons in house purchase was 29. These brought the total number of such loans at the end of the year to 76.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Part II. Section 4

Six standard grants were made by the Council for the improvement of dwellings by the provision of standard amenities.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There is now only one house let in lodgings in the town. I have no special comment to make in connection with this except that the need for such accommodation implies a shortage of houses. At the end of the year there were 82 applicants on the waiting list for Council houses.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk - The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The Urban District is a specified area and all milk sold by retail is designated milk, i.e., pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested milk. The number of inspections of dairies made during the year was 22.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council was seven. There are two dairies situated within the Urban District but no plants for the pasteurisation.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The number of licences granted by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk was 4. These are the final such licences which the Urban District Council will issue, for on the 1st October, 1960, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 came into force and transferred the issue of all dealers' licences to the Herefordshire County Council - the Food and Drug Authority for this area.

The enforcement of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959, continues to be a duty of the Urban District Council.

The number of samples of tuberculin tested milk submitted for examination was 5 and two of these failed to comply with the Regulations.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The number of supplementary licences for the sale of pasteurised milk issued by the Council was 4. No licences were issued for the sale of sterilised milk. In future these licences will be issued by the Herefordshire County Council as the Food and Drug Authority.

During the year, 34 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for examination, of these 32 samples complied with the Regulations and in two instances the samples were invalidated.

No action was necessary under the Regulations in connection with any premises.

The number of milk samples sent for biological examination was 33, and all were shown to be free from tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus.

There was no evidence at any time during 1960 that disease in the population was caused by the consumption of milk.

Ice Cream

No manufacture of Ice Cream was carried out within the Urban District during the year but 35 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

There was no evidence that the consumption of ice cream caused acute disease.

Water Cress

No special action was necessary by the Department in connection with the sale of this foodstuff. It grows in natural conditions in the vicinity of the town, and small supplies from commercial beds are also sold in the town.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the area is small. No action by the Department was necessary and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. Small quantities of oysters from Whitstable and mussels and cockles from the Gower coast form the greater part of this trade. There is a trend towards prepacking for these foods.

Meat

Slaughterhouses Act 1958. Section 1

One slaughterhouse continued to be used within the Urban District under licence.

All animals slaughtered are inspected after slaughter by the Public Health Inspector. Altogether 1969 carcasses were inspected during the year - this is 134 more than in the previous year.

The licenced slaughterhouse was inspected on 300 occasions.

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption is collected and buried on the refuse tip by the Council's workmen, as it is no longer possible to secure disposal by combustion.

Slaughterhouses Act 1958. Section 3(1)

In November, the Council furnished to the Minister a Report on the existing and probable future requirements of the District for slaughterhouse facilities and of the facilities likely to become available to meet these requirements.

In 1938, there were six slaughterhouses in use in the town and during that year 4104 animals were slaughtered for food for human consumption. Since then the number of slaughterhouses has fallen to one and the animals slaughtered to less than half the number in 1938.

One abattoir would seem to provide adequate slaughtering facilities to meet the needs of the District for some time and this was the recommendation of the Council.

There are no knackers' yards situated within the Urban District.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954 and Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Seven slaughtermen were licenced by the Council for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs. No licences were issued permitting the slaughter of horses.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	303	-	5	1358	303	-
Number inspected	303	-	5	1358	303	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	8	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.64	-	-	-	0.33	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.33	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

There were 15 premises in the town concerned with processing, preservation or manufacture of food; all being registered by the Council under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Six of these process meat, including brawn, sausage manufacture and ham boiling. There are six bakeries and 3 fish frying establishments. The number of inspections made of these premises during the year was 44.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

These Regulations are being observed. No formal action was necessary.

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
30 lbs.	Beef	Contusion
8 lbs.	Ox Liver	Cirrhosis
1	Pig Carcase & Offal	Moribund Animal
1	Pig Head	Tuberculosis
70 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Ham	Decomposition
27 lbs.	Sausage	"
70 lbs.	Pigs Liver	"
24 lbs.	Corned Beef	"
1	Poultry Carcase	"
14 lbs.	Fish	"
5 lbs.	Butter	"
12 lbs.	Desiccated Coconut	"
20 lbs.	Prunes	"
270 tins	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	Blown tins

Byelaws as to Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air

These byelaws have resulted in more hygienic handling of food. Eight inspections were made under these byelaws. No contraventions were found.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 26. - Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning was notified in the Urban District during 1960. Investigation brought to light one further case in the same household. The organism was Salmonella Typhi-murium and it was possible that infection had been acquired by close contact with a domestic dog.

One person in the District continued to be infected by Salmonella St. Paul.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of acute notifiable infectious disease in the Urban District during 1960 was very low, as only 13 notifications were received. In the previous year the number of such notifications was 204, the difference being due to a complete freedom from measles during 1960. Two acute infections, pneumonia and whooping cough accounted for the 13 notifications.

The notification rate was 2.4 notifications per 1000 estimated population. Acute notifiable ^{disease} was most prevalent during the second quarter of the year.

During 1960, the Urban District continued to be free of diphtheria, enteric fevers and acute poliomyelitis.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease
in each Quarter for 1960

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
Pneumonia	-	2	-	1	3
Whooping Cough	-	7	1	2	10
All Diseases	-	9	1	3	13

Whooping Cough

This was the most prevalent acute notifiable disease during 1960. Ten notifications were received, seven of which occurred during the second quarter.

The whooping cough notification rate for 1960 was 1.86 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year one case of this disease was notified.

The number of households involved was 8, two of these each experienced two cases. All of the patients were under 15 years of age, three being under the age of two years. In only one instance was a clear history of contact with another case obtained. The disease was not severe and there were no deaths from this cause.

Pneumonia

Only three notifications of acute primary pneumonia were received, and deaths of three residents were attributed to pneumonia. The corrected pneumonia death rate for the Urban District is 0.47 per 1000 estimated population.

Notifiable Infectious Disease according to certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	All Ages
Whooping Cough	2	1	2	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	10
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
All Diseases	2	1	3	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	13

Other Diseases

No cases of Dysentery were notified in the Urban District during 1960, and the year was one of freedom from common acute infections. Only four cases of chickenpox and three cases of German measles are known to have occurred. Five cases of mumps were reported in October and eleven in the following month. The infection then began to diminish and only four cases occurred in December.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year, there were 45 cases on the tuberculosis register, 37 of these being respiratory cases. During the year 4 cases of respiratory disease (2 male and 2 female) were added to the register - one of these being a new infection.

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 6 of which 5 were in respect of respiratory disease. Two cases of respiratory and 1 of non-respiratory disease were considered to have recovered. The number of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year was 43 (36 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory). The decline in the number of new infections of tuberculosis which has occurred in recent years continued during 1960, and the non-respiratory forms of the disease are becoming rare.

No deaths in the Urban District were attributed to tuberculosis during 1960. The death rate for England and Wales for 1960 from all forms of tuberculosis is 0.075 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1960

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Mortality</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

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COUNTY OBSERVATORY,

ROSS-ON-WYE.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1960

WETTEST YEAR since 1872

Record Autumn Rainfall

With a total rainfall of 39.24 inches 1960 was the wettest year since 1872 when 41.48 inches were measured; the only higher total in a record dating back to 1859.

The autumn of 1960 had the record highest rainfall of 15.88 inches, October having a total that has only once been equalled and thrice exceeded in over 100 years.

The year made a bad start with a wet January and February. The rainfall of these two months combined with that of December 1959, viz. 14.82 inches made the winter of 1959/60 nearly the wettest on record, being exceeded only by the winter of 1868/69.

The year's number of rain days, 199, was equalled in 1912 but has not been exceeded since 1907.

November had its highest number of rain-days since records began viz. 27.

In January, October and November the duration of rainfall was greater than the duration of sunshine!

January set up a new low record of sunshine with only 26.7 hours, whilst October has only once had less sunshine (in 1915) since records began in 1914 and March had its lowest sunshine duration since 1928.

The only snow of the year occurred in January - the fall on the 13th reaching a depth of three inches.

There was only ONE "absolute drought" or rainless period of at least 15 days - the last 15 days of April. There were two rain-spells (15 or more successive days of measurable rain) viz: October 14th to 29th (16 days) and November 8th to 28th (21 days).

In spite of the unsettled summer thunderstorms were rare, being confined to early June (Whit Sunday) and late August. At the sewage pumping station near Cubberley nearly an inch of rain fell in 20 minutes on Whit Sunday. At Ross Observatory the fall was only $\frac{1}{3}$ inch.

The great flood on the Wye in early December will long be remembered. Brookend Street was rendered impassable, but the water did not quite reach the level attained in March 1947.

1960 was a warm year. June was easily the warmest month and there had not been a warmer June since 1940. Not since 1950 had June had the distinction of being the warmest month of the year.

July was the first month with temperature below average since January 1959. It had only one reading of 70 deg. as did September.

Warm nights were rare only two having minimum temperature as high as 60 deg., viz. June 22nd/23rd and August 21st/22nd.

The coldest day was December 13th with temperature not rising above 31 deg.

It was unfortunate that the chief holiday months, July, August and September were cool.

The year was deficient in sunshine in marked contrast to its predecessor (1959) the difference between the two years amounting to over 350 hours.

June was easily the brightest month. In one week - that ending on June 4th - 90.7 hours of sunshine were registered which was more than in any week in 1959, whilst the nine day period May 27th to June 4th yielded 116 hours. This early promise was not fulfilled in the ensuing weeks!

There were no outstandingly high daily records in any month.

Full statistical details of the year's meteorology are given in the following tables:-

TABLE I

SHADE TEMPERATURE (deg. FAHR.)

(In a STEVENSON SCREEN, 4 feet above short grass)

Month	Mean	Deviation from Normal \mp	E X T R E M E S			
			Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	40.4	+ 0.7	55	4	21	14
February	40.5	+ 0.4	59	28	26	17
March	44.1	+ 1.2	60	24	31	9
April	49.0	+ 1.5	63	20	30	17
May	55.7	+ 2.4	72	10	36	1
June	61.7	+ 3.1	80	18	42	30
July	59.7	- 2.1	71	3	44	1
August	59.6	- 1.3	73	5, 22	41	13
September	55.6	- 1.1	73	11	40	24
October	50.7	+ 1.0	65	4	29	13
November	46.3	+ 2.4	59	1	25	8
December	40.3	- 0.1	55	3	27	13
Year	50.3	+ 0.7	80	June 18	21	Jan. 14

\mp Normals are for the 70 year period 1881 to 1950

TABLE IIEARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. Fahr.)

Month	M e a n s				Ground Frost ^ø		
	At One Foot	Deviation from Normal. *	At Four Feet.	Deviation from Normal. *	Lowest Temper- ature.	No. of Nights with frost.	Date
January	41.2	+ 1.4	45.2	+ 2.5	9	4	16
February	39.9	0.0	43.5	+ 0.5	19	17	17
March	44.2	+ 1.9	44.9	+ 1.5	24	22	7
April	48.8	+ 1.1	47.7	+ 1.0	22	17	9
May	55.8	+ 1.9	52.3	+ 1.4	27	1st	1
June	62.7	+ 2.5	57.8	+ 2.0	37	30	0
July	61.7	- 1.5	59.6	+ 0.4	36	1st	0
August	60.9	- 1.6	59.6	- 0.6	34	13	0
September	57.7	- 1.1	58.6	- 0.4	33	21	0
October	52.1	0.0	54.7	- 0.4	22	13	3
November	46.0	+ 0.6	50.2	+ 0.3	18	8	9
December	41.6	+ 0.3	46.5	+ 0.6	21	13	13
Year	51.1	+ 0.5	51.7	+ 0.7	9	Jan. 4	75

* Normals are for 30 year period 1921 - 1950

ø Ground frost occurs when temperature falls to 30 deg. or less.

TABLE IIIRAINFALL (In Inches)

Diameter of Gauge: 5 inches

Height above Mean Sea Level: 223 feet

Height of Rim above ground: 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Daily measurements are for 24 hours to 9 a.m. (G.M.T.)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Depth.</u>	<u>Deviation from Normal. *</u>	<u>Highest Daily Fall.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>No. of Rain- days. ø</u>	<u>Duration of Rainfall. Hrs. and 10ths.</u>
January	4.62	+ 2.15	1.19	24	19	82.6
February	2.88	+ 0.81	0.62	26	17	66.4
March	2.12	+ 0.15	0.51	29	12	48.4
April	1.91	+ 0.01	0.67	2	10	45.5
May	1.69	- 0.44	0.60	12	9	21.4
June	2.50	+ 0.58	0.66	22	12	21.1
July	2.18	- 0.18	0.38	31	18	29.2
August	2.59	+ 0.09	0.64	26	18	34.2
September	4.13	+ 1.75	0.84	30	14	60.8
October	6.70	+ 3.67	0.77	2	25	100.5
November	5.05	+ 2.36	0.81	25	27	72.6
December	2.87	+ 0.11	0.71	3	18	57.5
Year	39.24	+11.06	1.19	Jan. 24	199	640.2

* Normals are for the 90 year period 1861 to 1950

ø A rain-day is one having .005 inch or more.

TABLE IV

BRIGHT SUNSHINE (in Hours and Tenths)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Duration.</u>	<u>Deviation from Normal. *</u>	<u>Highest day's record.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Number of sunless days.</u>
January	26.7	- 25.7	5.4	5	14
February	77.1	+ 8.4	9.0	15	10
March	69.3	- 46.9	8.8	22	11
April	148.7	- 1.8	12.3	30	3
May	169.3	- 16.1	14.6	24	3
June	255.5	+ 54.2	14.9	20	2
July	138.9	- 41.7	10.1	22, 31	1
August	155.1	- 17.1	11.6	15	3
September	116.5	- 14.3	10.9	8	3
October	59.4	- 38.7	9.0	12	9
November	64.4	+ 5.7	7.7	7	7
December	58.5	+ 7.9	6.5	2	10
Year	1339.4	-126.1	14.9	June 20	76

* Normals are for 35 years, 1916 to 1950.

Highest Temperatures in the Sun's Rays (BLACK BULB in vacuo):-

141 deg.	June 22nd	138 deg.	June 18th
139 deg.	August 22nd	137 deg.	July 3 and 12th and August 16th

TABLE V

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in Inches of Mercury)

Height of Barometer cistern above Mean Sea Level: 226 feet

N.B. The values given below have all been corrected for Mean Sea-Level and temperature 32. Fahr.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Mean Pressure.</u>	<u>Deviation from Normal. *</u>	<u>E X T R E M E S</u>			
			<u>Highest</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jan.	29.964	+ 0.004	30.605	6	29.051	24
Feb.	29.757	- 0.239	30.840	7	29.129	19
March	29.858	- 0.145	30.436	20	29.157	9
April	30.094	+ 0.148	30.466	17	29.298	3
May	30.084	+ 0.096	30.431	29	29.690	12
June	30.067	+ 0.035	30.355	27	29.545	9
July	29.852	- 0.125	30.216	20	29.342	11
August	29.859	- 0.121	30.095	2	29.580	18
September	29.949	- 0.063	30.452	24	29.273	16
October	29.628	- 0.340	30.237	15	29.098	8
November	29.596	- 0.319	30.207	7	28.786	1st
December	29.747	- 0.233	30.347	16	29.135	4
Year	29.871	- 0.109	30.840	Feb. 7	28.786	Nov. 1st

* Normals are for 30 years 1921 - 1950

N.B. Observations are made six times daily at three hourly intervals.

TABLE VI

RELATIVE HUMIDITY and PREVAILING WIND

From observations made six times daily at
three hourly intervals.

<u>Month</u>	Relative Humidity (<u>Mean Percentage</u>)	<u>Prevailing Wind</u>	
		<u>Direction</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
January	86	South	18
February	81	South	21
March	79	East	38
April	71	North	17
May	70	North-East	22
June	69	West	22
July	73	South-West	48
August	79	South-West	28
September	81	South-West & East	28 each
October	88	East	25
November	86	South-West	37
December	85	South-West	39
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Year	79	South-West	21
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J. J. Parsons

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER

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